



## The Park Place Economist

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### The Graduating Class

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## The Graduating Class

with agricultural economics.

Jeff is currently enrolled in Michigan State University's Graduate Program. He is studying agricultural economics and resources with a concentration in environmental concerns, and hopes to complete his dissertation on the demand for organically produced agriculture in society by early this fall. He is currently undecided about which road to take after graduate school, but he says he is "keeping all of his options open." He recommends that undergraduates do the same. He has expressed interest in teaching and continuing his research in a "smaller university setting like Illinois Wesleyan," where he would seek to develop classes specifically dealing with environmental economics. Jeff is also considering consulting for a private firm or working in research for an overseas organization.

In February, he returned to IWU to give economics students some advice regarding the difficult decision they must make upon graduation: whether to immediately enter the working world or to enroll in a graduate program. "Be really sure that you want to go in [to graduate school]," Jeff said. "Don't go in for the wrong reasons."

Questions were then asked pertaining to the specific differences between a graduate program and a doctoral program. According to Jeff, students should know that graduate programs generally require fewer courses for completion and do not involve as much concentration in the thesis portion of the program as doctoral programs would require. However, graduate students often find more comprehensive exams waiting for them, whereas doctoral candidates will concentrate on researching, analyzing, and publishing their studies to obtain a Ph.D.

Jeff Blend's advice was valuable to all IWU students because he understands where they are in their academic careers and the challenges that they will soon be facing. Alumni are excellent resources when students are seeking advice on future directions.

## **The Graduating Class**

*Steve Krull*

**Chris Dunlap** is a senior economics and political science major from Dwight, IL. The purpose of his

senior project was to find the economic and political factors that determine state spending. His most memorable moment at IWU was playing a football game in Hamburg, Germany. Recently, Chris received a job at Edward Jones as an investment representative. He dreams of owning his own seat on the financial exchange someday.

**Chris Giglio** is a senior economics and business administration major from Palatine, IL. In his senior project, Chris attempted to find the factors that determine whether or not an individual would be employed. His most memorable moment at IWU was going to Chicago with Dr. Seeborg and Dr. Chapman for a May term course. After graduation, Chris hopes to find a job in the banking industry. Chris' career goals include becoming the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

**Katie Hundman** is a senior economics major with a minor in finance from Bloomington, IL. The subject of her senior project was determining the types of factors which play a role in commercial banks using financial derivatives. "While some argue that derivatives are too risky to be held by banks, my hypothesis was that banks that held derivatives were less exposed to market risk." Katie will be working in the Investment Accounting Department at State Farm after graduation.

**Ashwin Kapur** is a senior economics and mathematics double major from India. His senior project presented empirical evidence that suggests that the Efficient Markets Hypothesis fails, and then suggests an alternative market based on the Chaos Theory. After graduation, he will be trading derivatives for a Wall Street firm.

**Nathan Knuffman** is a senior economics and political science major from Manville, IL. In his senior project, Nathan attempted to find the determinants of environmental commitment among individual states. After graduation, Nathan is considering returning to graduate school or getting a full-time job. Eventually, Nathan would like a job that "pays well and leaves lots of leisure time."

**Steve Krull** is a senior economics major with minors

in finance and political science from Park Ridge, IL. In his senior project, Steve attempted to prove that regional jets would significantly alter the present hub and spoke system within the airline industry. After graduation, Steve plans on beginning a career in fixed income asset management while completing requirements for an M.B.A. and CFA. Eventually, he would like to become a portfolio manager within the fixed income industry.

**Bryan McCannon** is a senior economics and business administration major from St. Joseph, IL. He also has minors in Japanese and mathematics. After graduation, Bryan will start working on his Ph.D. in economics with a concentration in public finance at Indiana University. Bryan dreams of working at the Federal Reserve Board in New York, doing research and formulating policy. In his senior project, Bryan focused on the characteristics of the working poor.

**Anjali Shah** is a senior economics major with a minor in Spanish from Frankfort, IL. Her senior project consisted of looking at how the family influences a child's decision to pursue a college education. After graduation, Anjali plans to work for a few years and then return to school for an M.B.A. One day, she hopes to work as a strategic financial consultant for a multinational corporation with travel opportunities.

## **The CLA Economist?**

*Jackie Hood*

The 30-year history of Sherff Hall, Illinois Wesleyan University's old science building, came to an end in June 1996 as it underwent a \$5.1 million renovation project to become the Center for Liberal Arts (CLA). The new building opened in the fall of 1997.

Sherff Hall was vacated after the opening of the Center for Natural Sciences in 1995, which presented the opportunity for renovation. The old building was gutted, leaving only the steel and concrete framework, and reconstructed to house three floors of faculty offices, student research labs, study areas,

conference rooms, and classrooms. The Economics, Business Administration, History, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, Philosophy, Religion, International Studies, Women's Studies, and Educational Studies departments all benefit from the latest improvement at IWU.

The Economics Department is currently located on the third floor of the CLA, along with the Business Department. It consists of faculty offices, a study lounge, a research center and several conference areas. The additional working and meeting spaces provided in the CLA are substantial improvements over Park Place, the former home of the Economics Department. "The extra space has been great to host events, such as lunch with guest speakers," says Tom Kirkwood '00. Justin Etnyre '99 takes advantage of the research center. "It has been great for my Econometrics class. It's made it easier to access data off the web rather than going through dozens of books."

Dr. Margaret Chapman, Chair of the Economics Department, says it is a joy to work in the spacious CLA. "It's fun to be able to work with four or five students in my office, and it's nice to have a work place for the students." Dr. Michael Seeborg, Robert S. Eckley Distinguished Professor of Economics, agrees that the extra space for group work and one-on-one interaction is an advantage of the Department's new home. "The lounge and the research center are great for the students, and it's nice to be close to the other departments as well."

However, the professors have mixed feelings about leaving Park Place, the former location of the Economics Department. "We were like a family - a dysfunctional family - over there with the cozy space," says Dr. Seeborg. The Economics Department was located in the Park Place building for seven years.

Park Place originally was used as campus housing before it became the home of the Economics and Business Administration departments. Next year, Park Place will undergo a facelift and open as a university small hall.

Darcy Greder, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, says, "Park Place will become a co-ed, upperclass, single room occupancy building for 12 to 14 students. It will provide juniors and seniors a nice alternative to traditional hall and off-campus living."

Gone are the days of make-up exams in the slanted hallway outside the men's room and sitting on